

SPINAL CROSS-CONNECTORS

Abstract

An implantable spinal cross-connector is provided for connecting one or more spinal fixation devices, and more preferably for connecting two spinal fixation rods that are implanted within a patient's spinal system. In general, the cross-connector includes a central portion having at least one connector member formed on a terminal end thereof and having first and second opposed jaws, at least one of which is selectively movable between a first, open position wherein the first and second jaws are positioned a distance apart from one another, and a second, closed position, wherein the first and second jaws are adapted to engage a spinal fixation element therebetween. The cross-connector also includes a locking mechanism having a shank that is receivable within a non-expandable bore formed in the connector member. The locking mechanism is adapted to come into contact with each of the first and second jaws to selectively lock the first and second jaws in a fixed position with respect to one another.